



PASTORAL

LETTER.

ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH,  
MIDDLETOWN, PA.

"A Merry Christmas,"  
"A Happy New Year,"  
"Peace on Earth, Good Will to Men,"

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Are greetings from a devoted Pastor to a devoted people. A people peculiarly favored, and Providentially preserved. They are Christmas greetings and carry with them family reunions, blessed childhood, festal holiday, and expressions of thanksgiving. Some one has beautifully said:

The whole world is a Christmas tree,  
And stars its many candles be,  
O sing a carol joyfully,  
The year's great feast is keeping."

A Merry Christmas, for Christmas morning in the Church at six o'clock when Christmas songs shall be sung, when worshippers shall worship and sing

"Once again in love and joy,  
Unto us a child is born!"

The Christ Child on account of whom we will celebrate the Holy Communion and in touching Preparatory Service we will prepare to become worthy participants. These services to be observed in January 1904, the dates yet to be announced, at which services the great benevolent operations of the Church will be remembered with Thank Offering and earnest prayer.

Two things of note to be remembered, the organization of the Catechetical Class for the first week in the New Year, and the Silver Anniversary of the marching into the new Church from the old, will be celebrated on the first Sunday in February, 1904, and celebrated by the congregation and by the Sunday School.

In view of all the blessings of Christmas, and what Christmas means to the Church and to the world we ask, what does it mean to you, what does it mean to me.

“Though Christ a thousand times  
In Bethlehem be born,  
If He's not born in thee  
Thy soul is still forlorn.”

Our prayer is that the Christ Child will bring into your heart and into your home “A MERRY, MERRY CHRISTMAS.”

Your Friend and Pastor,  
F. W. STALEY.

MIDDLETOWN, PA.,  
Dec. 8, 1903.